

Presidential Aspirations and Prospects.

Although more than a year must yet elapse before the Presidential election, the question of candidates is getting to be the most exciting of all which now disturb political parties. We have long felt the influence of this momentous issue in the legislation deemed necessary by the dominant party to secure a certain triumph. Let us hope, at least, that their minds are settled upon this score, and whether they decide a reconstruction of the South necessary before the Presidential election, or prefer to delay it until after that event (for it is a matter of calculation merely) they will regard as accomplished the purposes for which we have been punished.

It would seem, however, that the attention of the politicians is beginning to be diverted from the issue itself to the personal aspect of the case, and the claims of numerous aspirants are being assiduously canvassed. In the course of the next six months, before which time no formal nominations, we imagine, will be made, events may sink from notice the names of some who are now prominent and present, others who are not at present mentioned.

The elections this Fall must have great influence upon the selection of the Republican nominee, even if the two wings of that party can agree upon a common candidate in any event. There is no question but that General Grant is the choice of the more conservative element of the Republican party, and a few of their organizations have already nominated him, and the *Herald*, *Times* and *Commercial*, all influential Republican journals of New York City, representing different but powerful influences in that State, declare earnestly for him, while the yet more powerful wing represented by the *Tribune*, under the leadership of its editor, Mr. Greeley and Wendell Phillips, shower abuse upon him openly, while their adherents generally are more covert but unanimous in their attack.

The feeling in favor of General Grant will increase or decrease, as the result of the elections soon to take place will determine the continued or failing strength of the Radicals. Any decided increase of the Conservative vote may cause even such leaders as SUMNER and STEVENS to "grow circumspect," while the action of General Grant in taking temporarily the post made vacant by the dismissal of poor STANTON, will lean from him many partisans, who may have preferred certain triumph with him to doubtful victory with more favorite names. We rather think this apparent approval of the President's course by General Grant will render it impossible in any event for the party to agree upon him, and his nomination would more probably cause a division in their ranks.

Another feature is creeping into the politics of the North, which is destined to have a great influence upon future canvasses and candidates. The German element, which, in many of the Northern States holds the balance of power, and which has uniformly heretofore acted with the Republican party, because opposed to slave labor, is becoming tired and somewhat alarmed with the success with which that party have sought to elevate the negro and strike down and degrade the white men, and in consequence thereof in many localities they are leaving the Republican party in a body or acting with the more conservative wing. The *Free Radical*, the leading organ of the Germans in the North-west, has come out flat-footed against the Stevens-Butler organization, and urges the formation of a new party. The promoters of the proposed new organization, and the Germans of that section are claimed to be almost unanimously in favor of it, argue that the Radical party has already outlived its usefulness, and that its leaders are only intent upon perpetrating their ascendancy at any cost to the country. In Boston, the *Pioneer*, the most ultra German Radical paper of the North, gives notice that it will no longer act with the party of Stevens, Sumner & Co. The *Pittsburgh (Penn.) Volksblatt*, an influential Radical paper, says the German Republicans must form an alliance with the Democracy, in order to defeat the puritanism which is gradually taking hold of the party. The German Radical papers in Iowa make similar declarations. Even Carl Schurz, in the *St. Louis Westliche Post*, urges the German Radicals to vote for the legislative and municipal officers running on the Democratic ticket. If these foreshadowings have any marked effect upon the result in the local and State elections this Fall, it is evident that the calculations on the Presidential state must be erased and others made with new bearings.

As things now stand, General Grant is the avowed favorite of the Conservative Republicans, with prospects of his nomination being endorsed by the whole or a portion of the Democratic party. Prominent among the names of those who are open and self-acknowledged candidates for the Radical nomination, are Chief-Justice CHASE, Speaker COLFAX, Senator WADSWORTH and Senator MORGAN. Other prominent men, who as yet have no party organizations urging their individual claims, may be brought even as prominently forward as those just named—such as Generals BUTLER and SHIMMANS, Senators CAMERON and WILSON, Secretary STANTON and ex-Governor MORTON. And even the rapidly changing events may develop General SICKLES' claims into the full tide of popularity and success.

Senator FESSENDEN is most prominent for the second place on the ticket with General Grant, while Senator WILSON has no objection to waive his claims as the head of the ticket in favor of the same distinguished officer, if he will accept the Radical nomination and Senator Wilson receives the nomination for Vice President.

In case the Democrats do not endorse the nomination of Gen'l GRANT, the most prominent names mentioned in connection with the Presidency are ex-Governor SEYMOUR, of New York, Justice NELSON, of

the Supreme Court, ex-President FREYER, REVERDY JOHNSON and General DIX.

All these speculations and calculations, which now excite, and in a great measure control, political movements, may be dashed to the ground by the rapidly maturing and changing events of the day. The varying phases of the reconstruction operations in the South and the fluctuations of the national finances as influenced by Radical measures, ending in the climax of negro frenzy in the nomination of a colored man for President or Vice President on the one hand, and open repudiation of the public debt on the other, may yet, either by a successful issue, or by a balance of power, control the Presidential sweepstakes for 1868.

Cruelty to Prisoners.

Not the least evil, by any means, the defeated party in any conflict of arms must suffer, is the gross misrepresentations which must be borne in silence or under unavailing protest. That much was done on both sides during the late war between the United and Confederate States, which cannot be justified by the rules of civilized warfare, is certainly true, and that these excesses should be, and will be, condemned by good people, whether the perpetrators were the uniform of the government or were clad in "rebel gray." Immediately after the war it was quite natural that the excesses of the defeated party should be paraded in print, distorted and exaggerated to suit the excited and exasperated mass who demanded victims to appease their wrath. It was equally to be expected that the ignoble deeds of the conquerors should be temporarily lost sight of amidst the garlands of victory, and the plaintive murmur of suffering "traitors" should be drowned amid peans which greeted their success.

It ought to be a matter of congratulation to the South that in this carnival of frenzy and madness, when charges were preferred for every conceivable crime against every Confederate officer possible, from the implication of ex-President DAVIS in the assassination of President LINCOLN, through the entire catalogue, that with one single exception the whole have been abandoned or proved to be groundless before the military tribunals which have investigated them. Those committed by the successful party will never form the subject of official inquiry, and since the solemn denial of Congress that none were committed, it may be disloyal to entertain them, but they will yet find a more substantial and permanent abode than the indelible stamp they made upon the hearts of their victims. When the passions and prejudices of the times have passed away, and when success or defeat warps not the judgment of the historian, their truthful recital may mantle the cheek with shame and present a record of which a future generation will have no reason to be proud.

It is not our purpose or desire to refer to subjects, however, which bring up unpleasant reminiscences and arouse unpleasant feelings, and we have only introduced them to spread before our readers incidents and letters which tend to throw light upon a question by which the South has been made to suffer in reputation.

The execution of Major WENZ for cruelty to prisoners, was the extreme length to which the Government could go to fasten upon the Confederacy the charges for which he was punished. Events rapidly substantiating his innocence, which he died protesting. In the attempt to clear themselves of the failure to accept the offer of the Confederate authorities for the exchange of prisoners, or the refusal for many months to receive the Federal sick and wounded offered without exchange, because the Confederate Government had neither proper hospitals nor food for them, the Federal officers may yet establish, for the benefit of history, who was responsible for the sufferings at Andersonville and other Southern prisons.

General GRANT, in accordance with the arithmetic strategy which he had adopted to "crush the rebellion," was opposed to the exchange of prisoners, and gives his reasons in the following letter addressed to General BUTLER, which the latter publishes as a defense for his action:

"CITY POINT, August 13, 1864.
"TO GENERAL BUTLER: I am satisfied that the chief object of your interview, besides having the proper and mutual exchange of prisoners approved, was to discuss the propriety of a system of retaliation in going on in the South, which they keep from us, and which we cannot stop in some way. On the subject of exchange, however, I differ from General Hitchcock; it is hard on our men, but it is humanity to those left in the ranks to fight our battles. Every man released on parole, or otherwise, becomes an active soldier against us at once, either directly or indirectly. If we commence a system of exchange which releases all prisoners, we will have to fight on until the whole South is exterminated. We hold those whole, they amount to more than 100,000 men. This particular time, to release all rebel prisoners, would be to surrender to them defeat, and would compromise our safety here."
"U. S. GRANT, "Lieutenant General."

In the STRATTON trial just ended, the treatment of Northern soldiers in Southern prisons, in order doubtless to influence the minds of the jury, was forced by the prosecution, most unnecessarily, into the case. The published speech of Mr. MERRICK quotes the statement of Judge OULDS, the Commissioner on the part of the Confederate States for the exchange of prisoners, that he had offered to deliver up without any exchange for them, from ten to twenty thousand prisoners—United States soldiers—to the United States, but the officers in charge of the exchange had refused to receive them. Referring to which Mr. MERRICK uses the following language:

"There was at that time as you will recollect, a great many Confederate prisoners in the North, and a good many Federal prisoners in the South, and it was passed into history that the North refused to make those exchanges which were demanded by the rules of war and the laws of humanity. It has passed into history that the Confederate States, at that time, offered to surrender up to the North, to be taken to twenty thousand prisoners, if the United States would send transportation to Richmond to take them."

"Mr. Bradley: And without any exchange. They said: 'We are exhausted; our resources are gone; our food is gone; we starve; your prisoners starve; come and take them, for we are unable to do that justice by them which the law of war requires.' Said the United States: 'You shall keep them.' For the starvation of these prisoners I hold the United States responsible, and not the South."

The inability of the Confederate Government, from the destitution of food, to properly feed these prisoners, was the very reason, which induced the United States authorities to refuse to accept them. The

tactics of starvation was added to the strategy of numbers in conquering the South and in this latter style of warfare, a soldier consuming the rations of an impoverished adversary was equal to one in the field. Their troops dying with hunger and disease in Confederate prisons were thus made to perform their allotted work in the overthrow of the South, as did those who fell on the heights of Spotsylvania, or in the swamps of South Carolina.

We have no word of objection to offer to the means used for our overthrow, but we do protest against making the South responsible for the suffering which this course entailed, and we hail with pleasure the discussions which are surely but slowly bringing to light revelations which fasten these barbarities where they belong. The black clouds of war will pass away, and the sun-light of truth will yet reveal much which is hidden.

North Carolina Railroad vs. Petersburg and Norfolk Merchants.

We see in the *Petersburg Index*, of the 22d inst., a savage editorial, evidently designed as an advertisement for the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company.

We do not propose to defend Wilmington as a business community against the unjust assertions made in the article referred to. She needs none. Her skirts are clean and her escutcheon untarnished.

The language of the writer is not the kind we would prefer to deal with. Such expressions as "Brute Force" and "Worthlessness" may stand alone, unmisunderstood, and as the Wilmington merchants had no more to do with the matter complained of than the famous "man in the moon," we will simply state a few facts (and they cover the whole ground) and leave the *Petersburg* and *Norfolk* merchants to judge of the "policy" recommended to them to pursue, whether it be good or bad.

The writer evidently does not understand the subject upon which he is writing—for we desire to give him credit for candor. We submit the following facts, and we know them to be facts.

The North Carolina Railroad is from Charlotte to Goldsboro', a distance of two hundred and twenty-three miles, three-fourths a State road. The question with the Stockholders of that Corporation, that was decided at Greensboro', was one of interest to themselves, and not for any city or place. It is this, "How could they increase the receipts of their road without increasing its expenses?" It was found that by an old arrangement, made when the State owned a large interest in the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, that the bulk of through freights to and from Northern markets, passed off their road at Raleigh, while their freight trains, with a few cars, kept on to Goldsboro'.

It was also found that the cars left off at Raleigh to go by Raleigh and Gaston Railroad would, if they had been carried through to Goldsboro', have yielded them about fifteen dollars per car. Admitting they had carried ten cars per day each way for three hundred days, equal to six thousand cars per annum, which would only have cost them the "wheelage" on the cars, extra, or more than it would if they had left them at Raleigh, and we have gross receipts from this source of ninety thousand dollars that went to another Company. This sum may be more or less than the actual amount that would have been realized in force; but it illustrates the principle on which the Stockholders, without a dissenting voice, decided this question. By the present rates on through freights both ways, we understand that Company receives about an average of fifteen dollars per car between Raleigh and Goldsboro', which is sufficient to make the plan a permanent one. The difference in distance between Raleigh and Weldon, by way of Goldsboro' and Gaston, is twenty-nine miles, and the longer distance is over a road with few grades and curves, upon which any speed can be made; hence no difference in time.

The cost to the two Companies is no more, because this is "increased business," and no train is run exclusively for it—mean nearly all not profits. The great and essential mistake this writer makes, and into which all the Norfolk papers have fallen, is that he and they are discussing this question as applicable to freights going to the markets of *Petersburg, Norfolk or Wilmington*, when the facts do not justify his conclusions.

The question is purely this, what route shall goods from Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York or Boston, going to all places in North and South Carolina, supplied by this line, or from these points to those cities, take as regards the Railroads between Raleigh and Weldon. Nothing more—nothing less. The Stockholders of this State work say: travel over the longest distance of our road, as it will give us the largest income. Is there anything more natural or more reasonable?

Should a corporation, any more than an individual, give away a profitable business to gratify an outside party, in which it had no earthly interest? and especially so when by helping themselves they can benefit a friend. Look at it in every way, and nothing unusual or unreasonable can be seen.

As regards the produce to and goods from, Norfolk to the interior, we are informed by those who know best, that not one-sixth of the freight that passes over the Seaboard Railroad, originates in Norfolk, or goes to that market for sale; and much, very much, less from Petersburg. It has been said that scarcely two cars per month, of goods and produce to and from Petersburg, go to or come from beyond Raleigh, on the North Carolina Railroad. Hence our position that this is a question entirely of transit of freight, through portions of North Carolina and Virginia, and not business to the market towns of either State. True, a great deal of produce goes to Norfolk and to Petersburg from North Carolina, but by far the largest portion of it originates on our own (Wilmington and Weldon) Railroad, and seeks these more northern markets in preference to Wilmington, not because their merchants show more energy or zeal as merchants, but because these

cities are nearer the great commercial center—New York—than Wilmington.

Now, we suggest to the merchants of Petersburg and Norfolk that the recommendation of the *Index* and other newspapers of both cities, that their merchants send all their goods to Raleigh, via Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, is bad "policy."

If the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad is their best feeder, as it unquestionably is, they, in return, will show a very bad spirit if "good neighborhood" deprives it of all the business they can. Would it not be better to divide their business between these Railroads that equally serve them?

Our people will soon find out where their friends reside, and the interest all our people have in the North Carolina Railway as a great State work, and as a helper to pay taxes and debt, commands this subject forcibly to their attention.

The new policy the State has inaugurated in the management of her principal Railroad will soon enable it to pay dividends into the Treasury of the State. But if defeated in this result by citizens of Virginia because they are stockholders in the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, which has so long enjoyed a monopoly of this through business, they will know where to send their freights and where to buy their goods.

We do not fear the trial—let it come. To our friends we say, keep your eyes open and look out for the "half-moon spectacles" via Raleigh and Gaston Railroad "that are said to be in secret circulation and somehow get on to people's boxes without orders."

We say again, we do not fear the encounter between the merchants of Norfolk and Petersburg in trying to sustain the old monopoly route against the interest of the people of North Carolina.

We have no fears for our Railroads and our sea-ports. The President and Directors of the North Carolina Railroad Company are "masters of the situation," and they may form or dissolve an alliance with other roads that their interests seem to demand, and if reasonably done they will be sustained.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE SPRINGS.

CATAWBA, Aug. 16, 1867.

GENTLEMEN:—You know that the favorite song of our glorious Jeb. Stuart contained one line, which his mellow voice would ring out with a power and melody that never failed to thrill clear through the hearts of his hearers:

"If you want to have a good time *give the Cavalry!*"

I find this merry refrain running through my mind all the time, though slightly altered, by force of position, into:

"If you want to have a good time come to Catawba!"

The very best of good times are our Spring people having, and the hours seem to grow more and more rosy as they speed away. The musical moon-light dance, which I mentioned as about to come off to-night a week ago, did not do so. At least, though the "fairer round moon" was punctuated to her engagement and flooded the fair hill-sides and sparkling waters of Catawba with distilled essence of silver, the gay party, which was to have danced a merry measure around the fantastic May-Pole, did not assemble according to engagement. No exception was taken at this violation of promise, inasmuch as the rule of this blessed community is that of the world-renowned Three Guardsmen: "One for all and all for one!" In other words, everybody does what everybody pleases, and nobody finds fault with anybody else!

With my ticket in my hand, I presented myself at the Castle in order to attend the menagerie and make the *Journal* a faithful report of the proceedings. I found, however, that the animals had succumbed to much dancing and exhausted nature, and were quietly sleeping in their dens. They were too pretty to disturb, so I left them to their dreams.

On Tuesday the pleasant information was disseminated that a regular party was in process of arrangement, and that it would come off that night. Sure enough it did, for Colonel Wyatt, having made a jocular promise to a gentleman, who was here a few days ago, fulfilled that promise most gallantly, when the said gentleman pressed him to his condition to claim it. This was to the effect, that if the gentleman, then unmarried, would enter into the holy estate, the Colonel would give him a party. I am inclined to think that this promise, pleasant as it was, was not the motive power in producing the desired consummation, for the strongest "ble argument in the premises is the bride herself. However, the deed was done, the happy groom presented himself and his dearer half at Catawba, and claimed the promise. It was paid most cheerfully, and the result was a "full dress" in the ball room and a delicious supper in the dining room. Mr. Wrenn excelled herself in the cakes and ice cream, whose preparation she superintended, and among several other toasts, when her health was proposed, the entire company responded with a good will, which testified their appreciation. Last night was the occasion of the merriest meeting I have attended for many a day, or night either.

Impelled by the same motive which makes a mocking-bird sing, we determined on the spur of the moment, to get a fancy masquerade party, "just for the fun of the thing," and we did it! Did it in style, too, for though the time was counted by hours, and a very few of them, too, we all worked with such will that the affair was a perfect success; not only in the variety and excellence of the characters, but the elegance of the dresses, several of which might have attracted attention in New Orleans itself.

The agreement was that at a certain hour all the maskers should meet at the Castle and proceed to the ball room. Having a number of costumes of a strange and several toilettes to make, I was prevented going to the parlor, and so went to the ball room direct. The porch, the doors, and even the steps were thronged by a crowd of "citizens," so closely packed that to force a passage through the double of the characters, but the ladies assembled and stood grouped for ten large double toilettes, presenting the quaintest and queerest medley, a sort of mosaic in which all colors, shapes and sizes were indiscriminately mingled.

The citizens, three rows deep, lined the porch, and the windows, and the doors, even found temporary resting places on the roof, gazing with eyes and mouths dis-

tended to their utmost capacity at the wonderful spectacle before them.

Well might they look, for the extremely fanciful nature of the dresses and the unearthly appearance purchased by the maskers, not entirely devoid of fear. The first figure on which my eyes fell was that of a Scotch Shepherdess, who stood near the centre of the room leaning on her crook, and presenting so stately an appearance that "a chieftain's daughter seemed the maid." Her dress of white, with black skirt and broad shoulder sash of brilliant plaid poplin, was in admirable taste, and her little cap, with its black and crimson feathers, had a decidedly jaunty air as it rested upon her bright golden tresses.

Near her was a Gypsy in the scarlet skirt, short enough to show a pair of decidedly small and pretty feet, black bodice and fanciful head-dress, which make up this picturesque costume, and whose claim to the character she personated was well substantiated by the ringlets as black as jet which fell around her shoulders. She was under the especial escort of a Highlander, whose disguise was rendered nugatory by the fact that his universal attention to the various persons present, and his efforts to secure their comfort betrayed him, and the courteous Colonel stood conspicuous.

Glancing on all sides as the character of a Fortune Teller allowed me to do, I found next to my brightest and most charming of Tambourine Girls, arm and arm with a blind descendant of Barney Brannaghian, who had a look of a blind man. The costume of each was in perfect keeping, and the sportive gaiety of the young girl and ready wit of her attendant were among the chief attractions of the evening.

In strong contrast to this pair stood a stately Aurora in a robe of the richest blue silk, over which a pink fell around her, and on her fair forehead sparkled the morning star. Well might she represent the rosy and joy-bringing Goddess of Morning, for with her lovely and amiable disposition and winning manners, she shed light and happiness on all who came within the circle of her gentle influence, while in her own home her presence is indeed the harbinger of never-failing sunshine. Her partner was well suited to his tall and erect figure, while the care he bestowed upon his fair forehead, and the determination to strike for her "the last armed (or any other kind) foe expires!"

Attracted by a face whose beauty was not concealed by a mask, I bent forward to obtain a better view, when it was completely covered by the agency of Toodles and his better half. This couple were so "violently lively" that one was tempted to fear that Toodles would encounter more than his ordinary difficulty in finding the key hole! Full of fun and mischief was he, and he was kept in constant motion by the effect of the darts, the second self. In a few moments they danced jolly off, and then the lovely young face that had so charmed me beamed out in all its beauty.

Its owner had every right to beam, as she represented Diana, the goddess of the silver bow, and never had the Virgin Goddess a fairer representative! She wore a short skirt of purely white crepe marcel clasped round the waist by a silver belt; her fair arms were bare, and on her white shoulders was a silver quiver filled with arrows, the effect was eclipsed by the darts, which Cupid, who had hidden himself in her laughing eyes, launched right and left at all beholders. Her hair, which is of wonderful length and luxuriance, was arranged in bewitching little curls on her forehead, and tightly held with a silver cord, and floated thence far below her waist. Bands of silver crossed it and restrained it to a proper degree of confinement, and just over her forehead rose a silver crescent, while in her ears and on her bosom sparkled diamonds whose brilliancy only inferior to her eyes. Another more exquisitely artistic than the arrangement of her head I have never seen, and as for the face which glowed beneath the crescent, no words of mine can begin to do it justice! At her side was the remarkably beautiful costume of a Brigand, a gentleman who has every right to wish that the use of shorts and knee buckles could be revived. This is a privilege which the generality of your sex is well content to waive in this osteological age, and should be highly prized by its fortunate possessor.

I thought all those who had intended appearing were in the room, but was mistaken, for, on turning to ascertain the cause of a stir in the upper part of the room, I found it proceeded from the entrance of a Spanish lady, whose costume was the most elaborate one presented. It consisted of white satin, the upper part of which was trimmed with glittering silver tinsel. A jacket of crimson velvet, low in the neck and opening in front over a rich stomacher of satin and silver was clasped by silver straps, while its long sleeves were completely alternate with a wide band of crimson velvet and white satin, striped and trimmed with silver. Some rich lace was disposed about the dress, and from the high comb of its wearer hung a veil of lace blacker but certainly less silky than her glossy and beautiful hair. A coronal of diamonds was expressed that such a costume could be gotten up in so short a time.

Next to him was the embodiment and representative of the press in the most grotesque costume composed of a full dress suit of newspaper, ingeniously laced on to his figure. He was not at all sectional, for all parts and places of the country were represented, and his lively rendition of his part made it the most amusing of the evening.

A young Cigar Girl was floated by in an exquisite dress of scarlet crepe, looped over the shoulders of feet, dressed in tiny white boots, and drawing all eyes to her perfect proportions. The eyes could not remain there long, however, being forced as it were to ascend to the other extremity, the head, which, crowned with its magnificent raven curls, rose grandly and completely hid the face. The crown of the cigars prettily disposed over her shoulders and hanging from her belt, and herself and her costume were a perfect success. She leaned on the arm of an aristocratic mask, whose robes which were so dear to our hearts—red and white—and who in his elegant mantle of scarlet velvet and white, was one of the most striking figures in the ball room. At this moment some confusion was created by a very little lady in a very long train and the most elaborate dress. She had been dancing the Polka with the Highlander, and in her trouble between the length of her skirt and the size of her crinoline, she had fallen flat upon the floor. Later in the evening, when her mask was removed, a boyish face was revealed, and its owner declared himself ready to return devout thanks that womanhood was not his normal condition!

A very pretty costume was that of a Reaper, who wore a short white dress trimmed with scarlet, scarlet boots and a bodice of the same gorgeous color. She carried a small reaping hook, and her little black skirt upon looped to the waist, was filled with ripened oats, while a fanciful head-dress of the same graceful cereal and scarlet ribbon completed the dress.

Cour de Lion was not represented, neither did Little John nor Allen-a-dale appear, but another of that band of glorious spirits was fully manifest in the jovial and genial Czar Tuck. The reverend father wore the gray robe of his order bound round the waist with a heavy rope;

at his side hung a silver rosary, and on his shoulders was the inseparable wallet. A large owl was drawn round his merry face, and his clear blue eyes twinkled with irrepressible fun. Whether or not he succeeded in persuading a fair penitent to confess her heart's secret to his priestly keeping, I do not know, but as women are said to possess an intuitive perception of all that is good and true, I dare say the holy Friar was made the repository of more confidence than was awarded less favored individuals.

At this point I am taking up more room than your limits may admit, so I must give you two more costumes and then make my bow.

The couple I refer to entered the ball room just in advance of myself, and the boy's admiration, which greeted them testified to the effect they produced.

The gentleman wore a handsome dress, which was a combination of the costume of Fra Diavolo and a Castilian noble. It was composed of short pants of a rich cream color and trimmed with lace, a black velvet jacket heavily trimmed, and fastened with a crimson sash, and a deep collar of point lace. On his arm was a form, which transported one to the gorgeous Orient, and recalled the days of the Arabian Nights with all their golden charms. Tall, with a figure of perfect symmetry, his every step was an embodiment of the poetry of motion, and the timid grace of here movements could find parallel only in the gazelle of the Eastern land, whose daughters she represented. She wore a dress of such elegance and perfect taste that it was well worthy the Paris fashion, which most of its material was brought. Full Turkish pantaloons of white satin, striped with scarlet velvet, hung over white boots ornamented with anklets of pearls. A short skirt of gossamer white tulle, embroidered with scarlet velvet flowers, fell in airy folds around her, confined at the top by a pink fell around her, and on her fair forehead sparkled the morning star. Well might she represent the rosy and joy-bringing Goddess of Morning, for with her lovely and amiable disposition and winning manners, she shed light and happiness on all who came within the circle of her gentle influence, while in her own home her presence is indeed the harbinger of never-failing sunshine. Her partner was well suited to his tall and erect figure, while the care he bestowed upon his fair forehead, and the determination to strike for her "the last armed (or any other kind) foe expires!"

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To sum up the affair, it was a decided success in all respects; all who participated and all who looked on, found it a source of great amusement, and it ended at a late hour without the occurrence of one single incident to mar the general pleasure. They say one of the editors of the *Journal* will visit Catawba soon; let me suggest the propriety of his hurrying up, for his name has been taken decidedly in vain in this region. Of this anon, in the *interim*, I am, very truly,

F. D.

From the National Intelligencer.

The condition of financial and business affairs in the North and West looks more and more critical. New York journals expressed the belief the other day that large failures in trade were nearly over, and that safer bottom had been reached. But the fact is, that we have but just reached the point where the currency ends and contraction begins. While the currency was increasing by the issue of national bank paper, in addition to the enormous amount of greenbacks put afloat for the purposes of the war, everything was prosperous, and speculation raged and thrived. Nothing could be bought by a purchaser that did not double or quadruple in value within a few days or hours.

The more wild and reckless the speculation, the more certain was it of success. There is a story of a madman who escaped from his asylum, and before he was caught had made a speculation, and, of course, fortune. Mines, oil wells, railroads, and other stocks were among the favorite subjects of speculation, and millions of irredeemable paper money were ready to be employed in these purchases. Speculations were made on a grand scale, and millions of government securities, as well as the gold product of the country, were used in these payments. But the flood-tide of paper money was to reach its highest mark. There was a legal limit to it. The effort to pass it failed. Then, of course, the tide ceased to rise, and the vast amount of indebtedness could not be longer floated without a further issue of paper. Congress and the Treasury went in for the efforts of the inflationists to increase the volume of paper, and the tendency was to a further increase. The amount of Government bonds was drawn, under the law, has not been large enough to have any serviceable effect, but the absorption of the compound-interest notes, which were held by banks as a part of their reserve, instead of legal tenders, will tend towards the same result. Hence, speculation has been suddenly checked, and speculators and the banks, and capitalists supporting them, have come to grief.

The reaction has but just commenced, and it is already visible in the general stagnation of trade, and in the accumulation of funds in the commercial centres, where they lie idle, or are offered at a low rate of interest upon call, with Government bonds as collateral security. Money in conducting business, and in private living has greatly assisted to bring about the collapse. A dry goods firm that failed some weeks ago in New York had paid a rent of over fifty thousand dollars; their business expenses, besides, were hundred thousands, and their private expenses were on a still larger scale. The cost of riotous living and unnecessary pomp and display in business would account for a bankruptcy.

We are startled by intelligence of heavy business failures in Providence, resulting not from legitimate business, but from sheer speculation. Things must become much worse before they can be better. When contraction shall take place and become the settled policy of the Government, business affairs will be accommodated to it, instead of being, as they have been for two or three years past, until recently, based on a constantly increasing amount of paper currency.

The Eastern States have been, through a mistaken policy, supplied with an undue share of the currency allowed by law for the several portions of the country. Con-

gress last winter was called upon to remedy this unfair distribution by reducing the amount allowed to Northern and Western banks, and increasing the allowance to other States. A bill was reported for that purpose, but it was suppressed by the influence of parties interested in maintaining the inequality. But it will, perhaps, prove in the end to be no great boon to any community to be supplied with an excess of currency for speculation.

For the Journal.
Registration—Wayne County Court—Real Estate Sales, &c.

GOLDSBORO', Aug. 20, 1867.
Dear Journal:—Registration on yesterday shows the following summary: Whites 22. Blacks 91. Total 113. For the three days registration ending last evening, the score stands, Whites 193, Blacks 288. Total 481. Majority for blacks 95.

We are without further returns from the precincts on the Southside, but the whites are estimated to have the majority by four to one.

Our Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions opened on yesterday, its August term. There seems to be nothing before it of material importance.

The interest of the following named gentlemen in their several estates, was yesterday disposed of at public sale in front of the Court House by the Sheriff: W. K. Lane, Geo. W. Collins, John Everitt, David B. Everett and Sam'l Smith.

If the sale holds good, which there seems to be some doubt, the property was sold at an unheard of sacrifice.

Weather clear; thermometer creeping up among the nineties.

N'DIOWT.

Who Can Register?

All males twenty-one years of age, who have resided in this State one year, and who have not been convicted of felony, or who, previous to the war, did not hold any State or Federal office, are entitled to register and vote, whether or not they engaged in the war or gave aid and comfort to the South.

If they held office, and did not afterward engage in the war, or aid the South, they are entitled to register and vote.

If they held office during or since the war, although they may have engaged in the war, or given aid to